

REMARKS

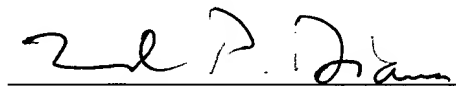
Claims 17-24 are presented for examination in this application. Non-elected Claims 17-20 from the parent application have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. It should be noted that these changes do not narrow the scope of any claim. Claims 21-24, corresponding method claims, have been added to assure Applicants a fuller measure of protection of the scope to which they deem themselves entitled.

Claims 17 and 21 are independent.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and early passage to issue of this divisional application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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VERSION MARKED TO SHOW CLAIM CHANGES

17. (Amended) A power manager for controlling power consumption of an electric circuit which includes a plurality of circuit blocks controlled by a controller, comprising:

a status monitor[ing means for monitoring] that monitors operating status of each circuit block;

[adding means for summing] an adder arranged to sum power consumed by each circuit block in the operating state; and

[notification means for comparing] a notifier arranged to compare summed power with a predetermined threshold value and, if the summed power exceeds the threshold value, so [notifying] to notify the controller.

18. (Amended) The power manager according to claim 17, wherein said [notification means] notifier has a plurality of mutually different values as threshold values and performs notification in dependence upon results of comparison with each of these threshold values.

19. (Amended) The power manager according to claim 17, further comprising [timekeeping means for measuring] a timekeeper arranged to measure elapsed time, wherein, if a predetermined period of time elapses without any change in the operating state of each block after said [notification means] notifier performs notification, said [notification means] notifier performs notification again.

20. (Amended) The power manager according to claim 17, wherein the threshold value is rewritten by [said] the controller.